the NHAI has invited expression of interest for establishing, operating and maintaining wayside amenities at eleven locations of which four pertain to NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh.

Ring Road Scheme in Varanasi

†1791. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whther proposed ring road scheme in Varanasi has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for not commencing work on this scheme so far; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The construction of Varanasi-Ramnagar-Mugalsarai bypass on National Highway No. 2 has been completed in South-West of Varanasi. This stretch also links National Highway No. 7. The stretch known as Northern Bypass has three parts *viz.* NH-2 to NH-56, NH-56 to NH-29 and NH-29 to NH-2. the land acquisition work between NH-56 to NH-29 has been sanctioned after feasibility study. The proposal of feasibility study for the stretches between NH-2 to NH-56 and NH-29 to NH-2 are included in the Annual Plan 2005-2006. All these bypasses will form a Ring Road around Varanasi. the construction work can be taken only after feasibility study and land acquisition are completed. Hence it is not possible to indicate the likely date of completion at this stage.

Challenges from Multinational Companies

1792. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries are facing challenges of competition from Multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to help Small Scale Industries?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.